

# **Interactions between microbiology and all other stakeholders**

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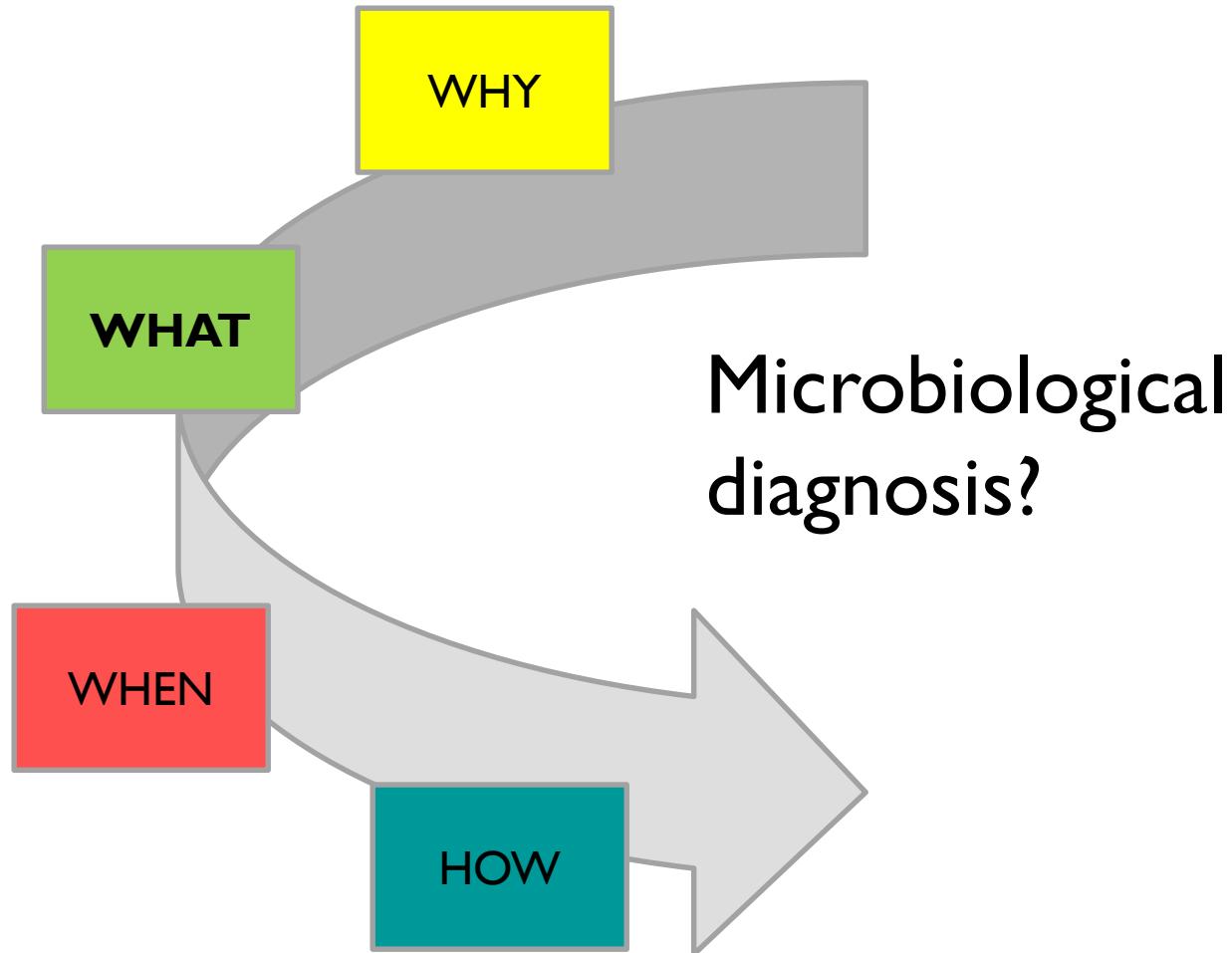
Brussels, Belgium



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# Introduction



# Main tasks of the laboratory

- To **IMPROVE** the management of infectious diseases
  - **I. CONTRIBUTE TO THE DIAGNOSIS**
    - Presence / absence of pathogens?
    - Identify the causative agents of infection (count) / colonization
  - **2. CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHOICE OF ANTIBIOTIC**  
(Targeted and probabilistic)
    - Perform tests of antibiotic susceptibility of clinically significant microorganisms
  - **3. CONTRIBUTE TO THE DECREASE OF EPIDEMIC**

The good use of AB depends on the good use of the laboratory

# Main tasks of the laboratory

- Produce "quickly" specific, useful, significant and reliable results
- IMPACT
  - On therapeutic decision?
  - On optimized management of patients?
  - On morbidity, mortality?
  - On duration of hospitalization?
  - On the control of nosocomial infections?  
On antibiotic use?  
On epidemiology of resistance?

**Rapid obtaining and communication of results**



**Interaction with pharmacist, hygienist, doctor, specialist in infectious diseases**





# The ability to achieve precise identification of the causative agent depends

- Interaction between clinician and microbiologist
- Clinician must be aware of the complexity of the tests and the time required to achieve a result
- Microbiologist must appreciate the nature of the patient's condition and be able to assist the clinician in interpreting laboratory reports

# Whole process of laboratory tests



# Pre-analytical



# Pre-analytical considerations

- Quality of the sample
- What samples?
- When taking?
- How to take?
- Sampling equipment and transportation
- Preservation



**Choice analysis,  
Quality of samples and transport conditions are essential**

manual sampling  
epidemiological and clinical data,

# M.D. orders

- Specify the particular pathogens suspected
  - Legionella, Vibrio cholerae, C.diphtheriae ...
- Communicate about
  - Clinical data
  - Antibiotic
  - Notion of travel – country....



Choice of techniques, culture media, interpretation  
of the results

# Type of samples

- From normally sterile sites
  - Any infectious agent identified is significant

!!!  
Contamination  
→ False positive



- From or through sites with commensal flora
  - Differentiate pathogenic or opportunistic infectious agents from the commensal flora

Identification  
Quantification



# When take samples?

- As soon as possible in the disease
- Before the administration of AB, if possible
  - A single dose of AB can "decapitate" the culture
  - Examples :
    - *N. meningitidis* and *S. pneumoniae* meningitis
    - Acute urinary tract infection
- If necessary, after "therapeutic window"
  - Examples:
    - Culture-negative endocarditis
    - Bone infection,

# Conservation and transport

Always transfer to the laboratory **as soon as possible**

→ Less than 2 hours at room temperature

- If not less than 24 (48) hours at 4 ° C  
Exceptions: LCR, blood cultures

## Delay in transporting specimen to laboratory

- Prolongs time to result
- Impacts specimen integrity :
  - False-negative and false-positive results
  - False-negative results can be life-threatening: meningococci in CNS

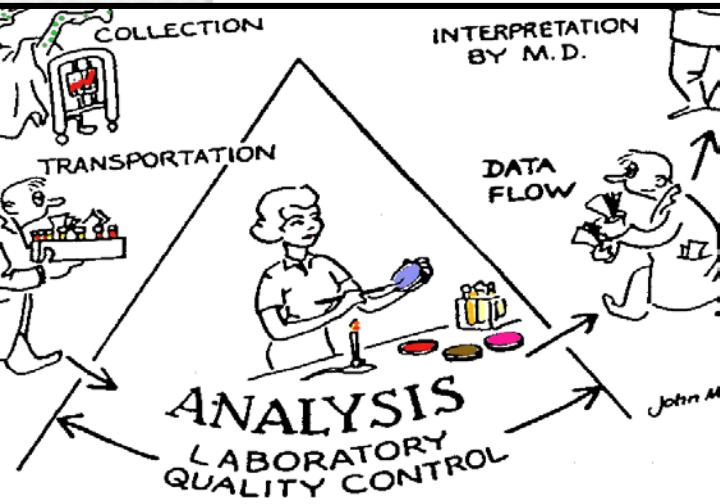


# Pre-analytical considerations



- **The quality of the sample determines the quality of the results**
  
- **Always inform the laboratory of precious samples**

# ANALYSIS



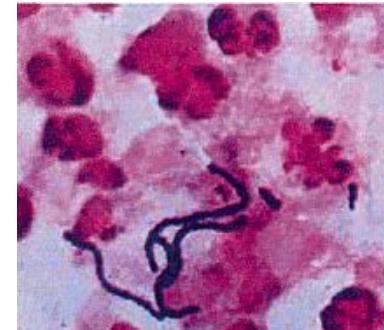
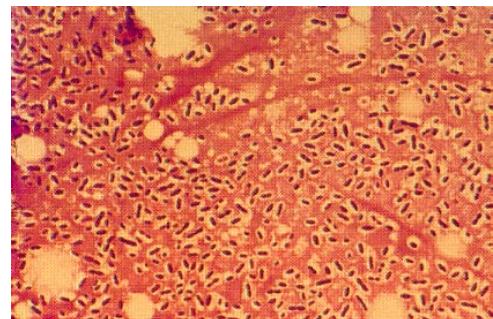
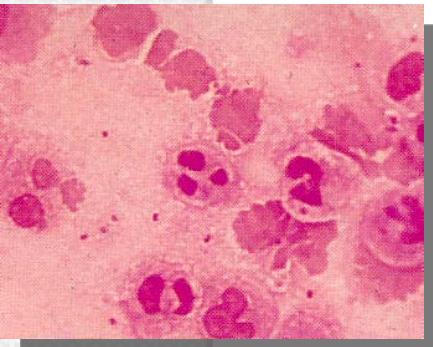
# Analysis



- Direct examination: **GRAM**
  - To assessing the quality of the sample (rejection?)
  - To evaluate the inflammatory response
  - To evaluate the presence of bacteria, fungi, yeast



◦ First diagnostic indications

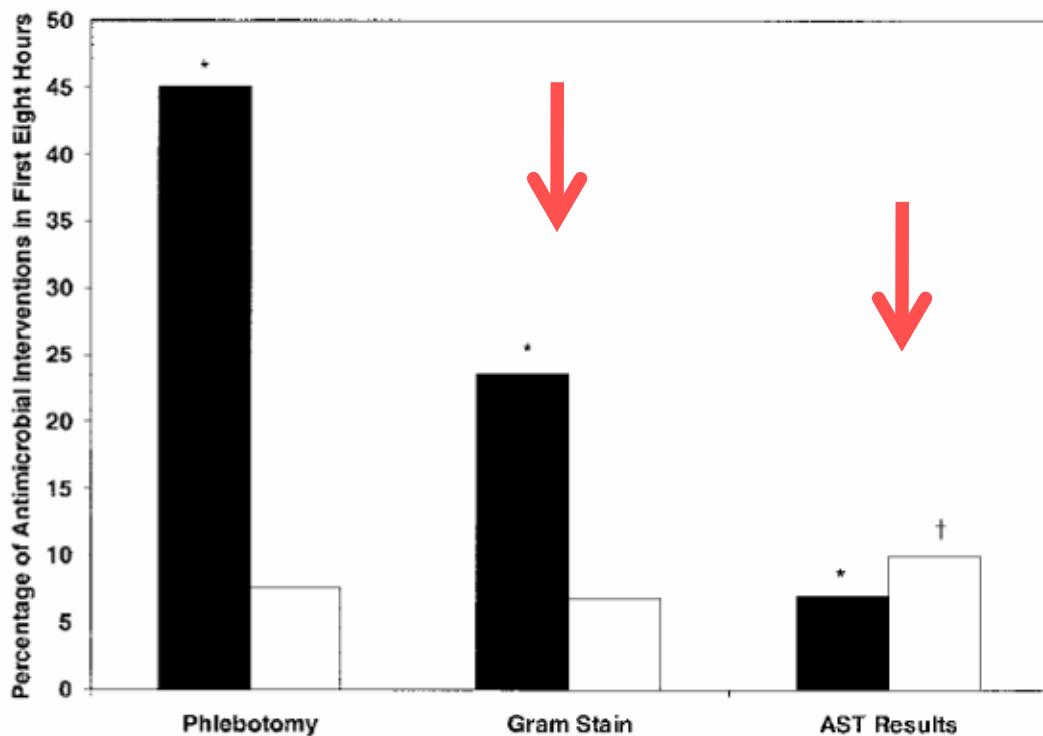


Meningit to *N. meningitidis*

Pneumonia to *S. pneumoniae*

Blood culture with *S. pyogenes*

# Impact of laboratory detection and reporting on management of bloodstream infection



Prospective study, 14 months

Iowa Univ. Hosp.  
509 bacteremic episodes  
(59% nosocomial origin)

50% empiric AB therapy within  
2-4 h post-blood culture  
sampling

Impact of transmission of  
preliminary result of Gram stain  
>> final AST result

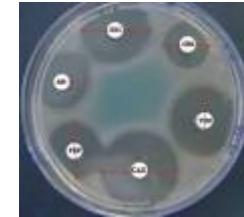
# Analysis

- **Culture**

- Isolate **all** the bacteria in an infection
- Differentiate bacteria probably responsible for the infection from contaminating or colonizing bacteria
  - Choice of media and culture conditions
    - type sample
    - suspected organism
    - Gram informations



# Analysis



- **Antibiogram**
  - Impact on AB choice



## Good AB use:

- - to conserve their efficacy
- - to limit emergence of resistance
- - to control the healthcare costs

# Good use on AB

- Empirical therapy
    - Based on local epidemiology
    - Need for local guidelines
  - !!! Reassess the indication and choice of AB after 48h
- According microbiological documentation



# Limit epidemic

- **Microbiologist-Hygienist**

1. Promotion of hand hygiene

2. Active monitoring of patients

- screening

- MRSA: nasal swab, perineal swab
- Resistant gram negative bacilli: rectal swab

- early notification of new cases

3. Contact Precautions

- Single room isolation or cohorting
- Use of gloves, gowns, ...
- Dedicated equipment

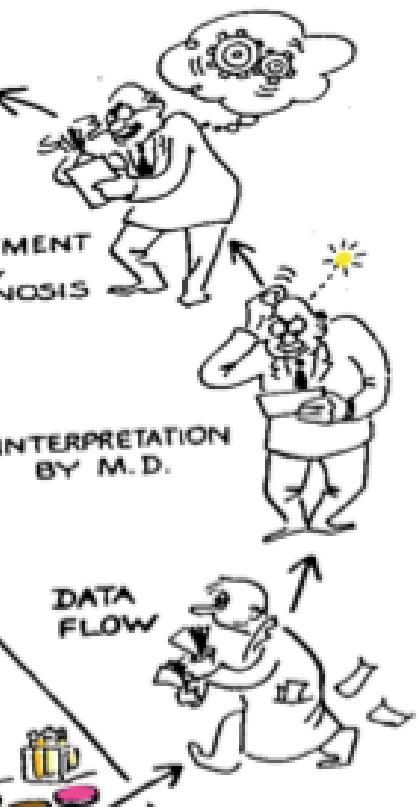
4. Carriers decontamination



"The patient in the next bed is highly infectious. Thank God for these curtains."

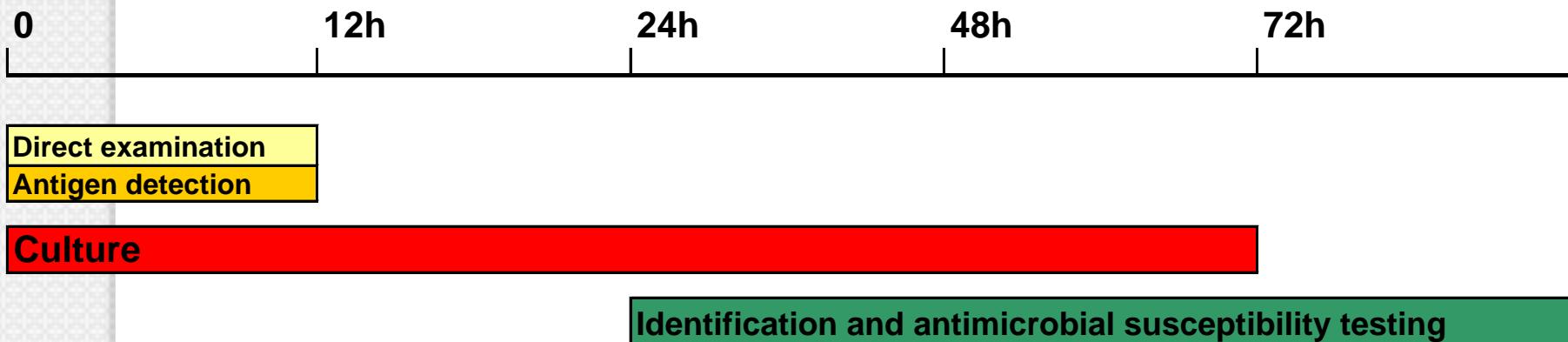


# POST- ANALYTICAL



# Communication of results

- Phone, paper, computer
- At the different steps of the diagnosis



**Time to results from 48 to 96h**

→**Limited impact of laboratory on infectious disease management in starting initial therapy**



# Different partners of the microbiologist



# Microbiologist - Prescribers



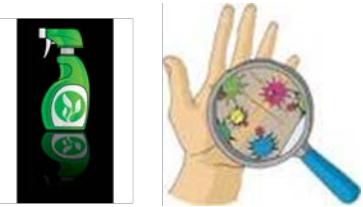
- **Repeated contact with the prescriber**
  - Information about the samples, the pathogen suspected, clinical data
  - Communication of the results
- **Report of results:** introduce comments, mask some AB... → help the prescriber to interpret the microbiological results

# Microbiologist-Infection control



- Role of the laboratory in the surveillance and control of nosocomial infections
  - Epidemiological surveillance
    - Incidence of nosocomial infections
    - Resistance to antibiotics
    - Detection of epidemics
    - Impact of intervention measures
  - Search for human and environmental reservoirs
    - Carrier screening for resistant pathogens (MRSA, CPE ...)
    - Water, food, air, surfaces, instruments (endoscopes, ...)
  -

# Hygienist



- Guidelines for isolation precautions (strict isolation, contact isolation, respiratory isolation...)
- Promote hand hygiene
- Carrier decolonization
- Control of patient environment
- Healthcare equipment decontamination
- Control and stop epidemic



# Microbiologist- Infectious diseases

- Daily contact to inform and discuss about the precious samples (BC, LCR, biopsy...)
- **Infectious diseases specialist:**
  - **Intervention on specific request/according the samples** (Blood cultures)
    - Optimization of treatment indication, dosage and selection of molecules, therapeutic deescalation, treatment duration
  - **Infectious disease round in specific units** (chirurgical unit, neurology...)

# Microbiologist -Pharmacist



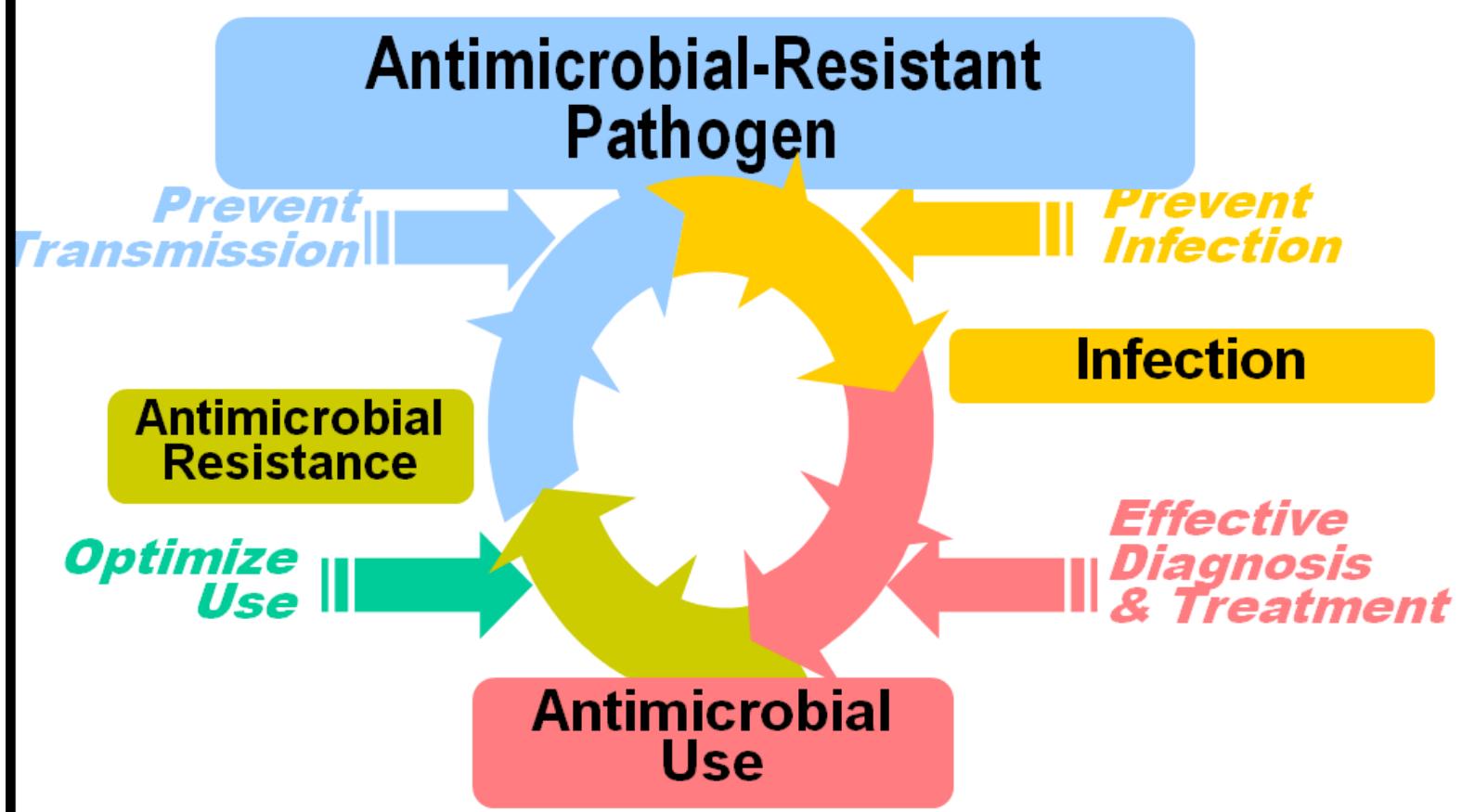
- Monitoring of AB consumption
- Antibiotic drug information
- Antibiotic use information

# All together

- **Antibiotics management group**
  - Multidisciplinary team
  - Goals: optimize prescribing and use of AB
    - Edit local guidelines (therapeutic form - recommendation for empirical and etiological treatment and prophylaxis )
    - Implementation of guidelines
    - Antibiotic policy intervention (specific prescription, automatic stop order)
    - Initiative to reduce the excessive consumption of AB
    - Training of medical, nursing and healthcare
    - Analysis of the consumption AB
    - Resistance Surveillance



# Conclusion



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